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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF THE SEWANEE REVIEW

In the October number of *THE REVIEW* for 1902 the editor, J. B. Henneman, looking back over the first ten years of its existence, gave an account of the founding of the magazine and briefly sketched its history. With the present issue the total number rounds out an even hundred and the magazine completes the twenty-fifth year of its continuous existence. Eight volumes were published under its first editor, W. P. Trent; eight under the editorship of J. B. Henneman; and eight under the present editor. Volume XVII, for 1909, immediately following the death of Dr. Henneman, was editorially managed by various members of the faculty of the University. In spite of changes in the editorship, *THE REVIEW* has steadily and consistently maintained its policy, announced in the first issue, of being a serious literary and critical journal. Avoiding all temptation to court wider popularity through mere timeliness in its articles, it has ever sought to serve as a repository of the literary essay and the critical review. A well-known New England essayist, in a recent letter to the editor, complained that "A purely literary article is somewhat difficult to dispose of in this country," and added that the market for such wares was deplorably small and weak. With even the best of the old-line, conservative magazines at present filling their pages with illustrated material concerning the war and reducing literary discussions to a minimum, the need of maintaining such a journal as *THE REVIEW* is more urgent than ever. In England, on the contrary, where the depressing influence of the war would naturally make itself felt far more strongly than in this country, *The Edinburgh*, *The Contemporary*, and other great quarterlies still hold fast to their ancient traditions, and apparently experience little difficulty in securing material such as they need. Fortunately, within the past fifteen years the field in which *THE REVIEW* was at first the sole pioneer has been gradually filling up, and *The South Atlantic Quarterly* in North Carolina, *The Texas Quarterly* in the University of Texas, *The Mid-West Quarterly* in the University of Nebraska, and *The Yale Review* have come forth to stand with *THE SEWANEE REVIEW* as exponents of liberal culture.

For the past ten years the magazine has drawn its contributions from a wide extent of country, representing thirty-eight states of the Union as well as England and Japan. New York leads with a total of thirty-three contributions out of a total of two hundred and sixty-four; but nearly forty-five per cent have come from the South, so that the magazine has contributed its share towards helping to encourage and develop independence of thought, to mould public opinion, to raise the standards of taste and literary expression, and to reflect the best tendencies in the culture and the life of the Southern people. Though not unnaturally a large majority of the contributors have come from the colleges, *THE REVIEW* has not been merely an academic organ, but has covered a broad field of literature, art, history, economics, theology, and current questions, and has always tried to approach these subjects in a dignified manner, free from prejudice and undue partisanship.

At no time during its history has the magazine had an endowment or even any visible means of support, so that its continuance through long years of struggle when often the very existence of the University was at stake, seems almost a kind of miracle. To the sound scholarship and fine literary taste of Trent and Henneman, as well as to the generosity and devotion of the Rev. Telfair Hodgson, Bishop Gailor, Vice-Chancellor Wiggins, Vice-Chancellor Hall, and the Rev. Arthur Gray, who contributed liberally of their time and money to its support, the success of the magazine is due; and it is a pleasure to place on record this grateful acknowledgment of their services to *THE REVIEW*. Some word of appreciation, too, must be added for the contributors, who, without receiving any financial returns for their articles, have given generously of their store and have made the magazine what it is. The editor's relations with his contributors have always been most delightful, so that his work has been completely removed from any suggestion of commercialism. For the future *THE REVIEW* feels that it can count confidently not only on the support of the friends of Sewanee (especially the Vice-Chancellor, the Board of Trustees, and the Alumni), but on the coöperation of all those devoted to the cause of literature and education; and it looks forward to opportunities of even greater usefulness and service.

THE EDITOR.